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I strongly support Resolution 12-57 - URGING THE STATE OF HAWAII AND THE UNITED STATES FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION TO REQUIRE LABELING OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD.

The Hawaiian people need this government to protect them from harm, to protect our fragile aina for future generations and to protect us financially by supporting energy and food independence. This resolution is a good step in that direction.

The Multi-national companies that bring GMO crops to our islands are the same corporations that gave us DDT, PCBs and Agent Orange. They are chemical companies finding new ways to sell more chemicals. GMO foods offer no benefit to society. They produce lower yield, require more fossil fuel inputs, and are less tolerant to drought than organic and natural methods of farming. They do however, increase the use of toxic herbicides and pesticides that destroy all living things.

I believe that we, the people of Hawaii, and our future generations are being subjected to an ³experiment² without our consent. And, if the multinational corporations had their way, without our knowledge. I would like to withhold my support from these mega-corporations' plans, but it is extremely difficult to avoid purchasing GMO foods, GMO fed meats and ingredients because these things are not properly labeled.

These companies claim that there is nothing different between GMO and Non-GMO food. You don't get to patent something unless it's different than what exists today. They're telling the patent office these things are new, and they're telling the FDA there's nothing new. Without labels, health officials are at a disadvantage when it comes to uncovering potential GMO-related toxicity or allergic reactions. If GMO foods were labeled, public health workers would have an easier time establishing patterns and correlations. In the U.K., where labeling is mandatory, studies show that soy allergy rates shot up after GMO soy was introduced. My daughter currently suffers from a severe soy allergy and I wonder if this is due to consuming GMO soy.

These corporations will argue that labeling foods containing GMOs is too expensive and will increase food prices. The truth is that the cost of labeling is immaterial. Their real concern is based upon their experience in over 50 other nations where labeling is required, including most of Europe and Japan. Less consumers choose to buy GMO foods when they are properly labeled. GMO companies know that U.S. consumers don't currently know they are eating GMOs. Mother's don't know that their infant formula's contain GMOs. Once the food is labeled most consumers will choose not to continue purchasing these items. Food companies have adapted and created non-GMO options in other countries. For example, Hershey sells non-GMO candies in Europe and continues to have good market share and profits. But, they don't sell them here, because we don't require labeling. It wasn't long ago that Hydrogenated Oils were widely used in processed foods and restaurants. Because it became obvious that these oils had potential

health risks, companies changed their ingredients and the use of hydrogenated oils is virtually non-existent today. Food manufacturers can and do change when the consumer asks.

Maybe someday the science of biotech engineering will be refined so that it creates a benefit to society without significant adverse effects. But I do not believe that we have not yet arrived at that day. The GMO crops are out in the fields because government officials colluded with the multinational corporations to allow them to proceed without proper human health and environmental impact studies. The companies said that they are the same as existing crops, but they are not. Most have pesticides built in at the cellular level. A study has now showed that the bacteria used in creating GMO Bt Corn continues to function in the human body and transfers through the blood stream to fetuses in pregnant women. In 2009, the American Academy of Environmental Medicine (AAEM) stated that, "Several animal studies indicate serious health risks associated with genetically modified (GM) food, including infertility, immune problems, accelerated aging, faulty insulin regulation, and changes in major organs and the gastrointestinal system."

The AAEM has asked physicians to advise all patients to avoid GM foods. How can we avoid them if the food is not labeled?

Most other GMO crops are built to withstand ³Round-up² herbicide and require farmers to use more and more of this toxic herbicide on farm land resulting in large ³dead zones² in the soil, rivers and oceans. Round-up's primary ingredient is Glyphosate, which has been proven to cause birth defects and many other negative health impacts. One of Round-up Ready seeds ³unintentional side effects² is the creation of ³Super Weeds² which require significantly higher doses of Round-up and toxic chemicals to manage. Other GMO crops have built-in pesticides and may be causing the dramatic bee colony collapse that is threatening our very existence. To avoid these potential negative impacts on the environment, I choose not to buy products containing GMO ingredients. But, trying to figure out which products contain GMO product derivatives has become very difficult. I buy my eggs from a local farmer at a farmers¹ market in town. I had to ask him to check the details on what he was feeding his hens. To my dismay, the feed contained GMO soy. Now, I'm not certain where I can find non-GMO eggs.

Please take a stand to label GMO ingredients in food and allow, me to know what I am feeding my family.

Thank you for reading.

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